

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Justin Karjala on 02/09/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1-35, 37, 38, 46-78 and 81-84 are cancelled.

Claim 36. A method of determining that a human has an increased risk for developing positive autoantibody rheumatoid factor (RF+) Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) comprising:

testing nucleic acid from said human to detect the nucleotide content of a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) at position 101 of SEQ ID NO: 5502 or its complement;

wherein a G/G genotype at position 101 of SEQ ID NO:5502, or a C/C genotype at position 101 of the complement of SEQ ID NO:5502, is detected and indicates said human has an increased risk for developing RF+ RA.

Claims 39. The method of claim 36 in which SEQ ID NO: 5502 is contained within SEQ ID NO: 1688, where SEQ ID NO: 1688 is the genomic sequence of the TRIP (TRAF interacting protein) gene.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With the amendments to the claims of 10/26/2009, and the Examiner's amendments as detailed above, the claim objection as set forth on pages 2-3 of the Office Action of 06/24/2009, the rejection under 35 USC 112 1st ¶ for new matter as set forth on page 3 of the Office Action of 06/24/2009, the rejection under 35 USC 112 1st ¶ for lack of adequate written description as set forth on pages 4-5 of the Office Action of 06/24/2009, and the rejection under 35 USC 112 1st ¶ for lack of enablement as set forth on pages 5-11 of the Office Action of 06/24/2009, are **WITHDRAWN**.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to STEPHEN KAPUSHOC whose telephone number is (571)272-3312. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 8am until 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-0731. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/803,180
Art Unit: 1634

Page 4

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